



Jayden Forest-Aubut, age 11

Suffers from refractory epilepsy
caused by a brain tumour

ENFANT SOLEIL FROM LAVAL

“The day illness knocks on your door is when you truly understand the support and comfort that Opération Enfant Soleil provides. Thank you for helping families like ours!”

Jayden was an energetic, healthy little boy until age seven, when he began to experience very bad headaches. Thinking his pain was caused by his vision, he was taken to see an ophthalmologist but the results were not conclusive. Jayden’s headaches had another cause. A scan completed at the time did not reveal anything, but shortly after, more alarming signs appeared: Jayden became disoriented and experienced confusion at school. Without hesitation, his parents took him to the emergency room at CHU Sainte-Justine. He was diagnosed with epilepsy within a few hours.

A series of tests were conducted to identify the cause of Jayden’s illness, which led to the discovery of a tumour that was three centimetres in diameter. The news was difficult to process for both the little boy and his parents. The list of restrictions seemed never-ending: refraining from certain activities, loss of independence and close supervision. Jayden became angry at his illness. The anti-epileptic medication he had to take had a serious impact on his temperament. Little by little, he became a shadow of himself: taciturn, closed-off, indifferent. His old personality faded away.

Stimuli sometimes distressed him and it was hard to recognize the happy little boy he had been. More violent seizures forced him to be hospitalized.

In August 2018, Jayden underwent a delicate surgery to remove his brain tumour. While the operation lasted nine hours, the little boy spent a total of twenty-two interminable hours in the operating room. His parents’ anguish was unbearable. When Jayden came out of surgery, his parents were told that the tumour had been completely removed. Although most of the news was very good, Jayden lost the top left corner of his vision in both eyes and some cognitive issues remain. He suffers from attention deficit disorder and acute anxiety that have significantly undermined his development. His road to rehabilitation will be long, but the smiling, sensitive little boy is back. Anything is possible!

Jayden’s parents thank you for being there for him and for all sick children in Quebec!

Caroline Forest-Aubut, Normil Decayette, Naika and Donovan

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